



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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## U.S. Envoy for Sudan in Darfur

- U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan Andrew S. Natsios met yesterday with the wali (governor) of North Darfur Yousif Kibir in El-Fasher. Natsios refuted reports that the U.S. intends to conduct military operations in Darfur and affirmed that the U.S. did not support the separation of Darfur from Sudan. Natsios added that the U.S. has no hidden interests in Darfur, but only humanitarian objectives. The U.S. envoy also called on rebel groups to end violence in Darfur, arguing that the time has come for all to realize that the conflict in Darfur cannot be resolved by war. Natsios referred to obstacles hindering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the needy in Darfur and called on the rebels, as well as the government, to facilitate this process. The wali of North Darfur welcomed the U.S. diplomat, saying that Sudan looked forward to dialogue with the U.S. He added that the government is willing to dialogue with opponents to the Darfur Peace Agreement to resolve the crisis. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Sudani, et al*)

## Darfur

- The criminal court of West Darfur will begin proceedings tomorrow against three individuals suspected of war crimes in Darfur. The suspects include Koshaib, already named by the International Criminal Court (ICC) last week. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Ayaam, et al*)

## Reactions to the ICC accusations

- Malaysian Foreign Minister Sayed Hamid Al-Bar described as “unjustifiable, political, and illegal” the decision of the ICC prosecutor to name two Sudanese for alleged war crimes. Interviewed by the Sudanese News Agency in Damascus, the Malaysian minister said that the Sudanese judicial system is capable of trying any person who is

accused of violating international and humanitarian laws. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- President Al-Bashir has ordered the creation of a committee to review the ICC’s accusations against Sudanese nationals. (*Al-Sudani*)

- Former UN Representative to Sudan Jan Pronk welcomed the ICC’s announcement and called on the ICC to file a complaint against other Sudanese Government officials, arguing that former Interior Minister and current Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Haroun did not act alone in Darfur. (*Sudan Tribune*)

## Miscellaneous

- Three persons were killed and 39 injured by a grenade explosion in Abu Jibaiha (South Kordofan) following a clash between the police and a member of the Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement in that city. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

**Announcement:** Today at 6 p.m. Khartoum time (10 a.m. EST), the U.S. Department of State will publicly release the annual “Country Reports on Human Rights.” The report will be available at [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) at that time.

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